

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 482  
By Langster

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Virginia Adams for her many years of dedicated service to the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those exemplary legislative employees who have performed their duties with the greatest acumen and professionalism and who have served as models of competence and integrity for their peers; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Adams, a native Nashvillian, is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for 38 years with the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, graduating in the top ten of her class at Cameron High School, Virginia attended the University of Tennessee at Nashville and Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, beginning her career in State government with the Department of Revenue, Ms. Adams was soon noted for her efficiency and strong work ethic, which led to her employment in the office of Governor Buford Ellington; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Virginia Adams began her career as a legislative employee with the Tennessee General Assembly, where she became the first African-American woman to work as a permanent legislative secretary for the House of Representatives and the first African-American woman to serve as a committee secretary in the history of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, in her capacity as a legislative secretary, Virginia is remembered by many who first met her during her long tenure with the legendary late Senator Avon N. Williams, Jr., and the Senate State and Local Government Committee; and

WHEREAS, always seeking new challenges, at the end of the 1980s, Ms. Adams accepted the very demanding position of Administrative Assistant to the Tennessee Legislative Black Caucus, where, over the years, she has showcased her exemplary writing talents and extraordinary ability to quantify and clarify the proceedings of the legislature to the public; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's exceptional flair for composition has shown brightly in the numerous press releases, newsletters, speeches, and reports she has prepared for members of the Tennessee Legislative Black Caucus; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Adams is the author of numerous publications, including the 1997, 1998, and 2000-2002 Legislative Reports of the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators; she has also served as a journalist with the *Urban Journal*, writing a column entitled, "The Capitol Hill Report"; and

WHEREAS, she is also the author of numerous articles, including "*Capital Punishment the Unbalanced Scale of Justice*", "*Meeting the Challenge of Women's Healthcare Issues in Today's Changing World*", "*Hope for Tomorrow - African-American Children*", "*A Crusade for the African-American Generation of the 21st Century*", and "*Laws for Children*"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Adams also researched, compiled materials, and composed the Chairman's Reports, *A Portrait of Your Legislator Working to Represent You* for Representative Joe Armstrong and *A Lawmaker Looks Back at Legislation and Leadership* for Representative Ulysses Jones; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Adams is an active and important part of her community, participating in numerous organizations and lending her support to various worthy community efforts, including the Nashville Magic AAU Basketball Team and the Martin Luther King Tournament, which she served as a Project Coordinator by composing and preparing fundraising pamphlets; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Adams also contributes her time and numerous talents as a volunteer for various legislative projects, including the Tennessee Black Health Care Commission, the Black Children's Institute, African-American Church Day on Capitol Hill, the 1994 Gubernatorial Symposium at Fisk University, and the Tennessee Black Caucus' Stop the Violence Program; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Virginia Adams has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and legislators alike; and

WHEREAS, the members of this body wish to bid a fond farewell to our dear friend, Virginia Adams, reflecting fondly upon her legacy of astute and dedicated public service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Virginia Adams for her remarkable service to the people of Tennessee as a legislative employee, express our thanks and appreciation for a job well done, and extend to her our sincere wishes for much continued happiness in her retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.